

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SY-04 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

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P 042346Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1933

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CI

SUBJ: REACTION TO RABASA VISIT TO CHILE

1. MEXICAN PRESS BY AND LARGE IS TREATING RESULTS OF RABASA'S VISIT TO CHILE AS STEP FORWARD AND SOMETHING OF PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR RABASA, BOTH IN REPORTAGE AND EDITORIALS. FOCUS OF ATTENTION HAS BEEN ON FACT THAT RABASA SECURED SAFE-CONDUCTS FOR 71 ASYLEES IN MEXICAN EMBASSY SANTIAGO AND BROUGHT THIS GROUP TO MEXICO WHEN HE RETURNED.

2. NOT ALL REACTION, OF COURSE, WAS FAVORABLE. NATIONALIST EXCELSIOR, WHICH HAS MOUNTED CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILEAN JUNTA, HAS EDITORIALIZED ("PRICE OF THE RESCUE") THAT RABASA MIGHT HAVE PAID TOO MUCH. THOUGH PLEASED WITH THE ASYLEE ISSUE, EXCELSIOR IS NOT PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE PROSPECT OF AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, ALLEGING THAT THE SENTIMENTS OF THE MEXICAN PEOPLE "ARE WITH THE CHILEAN NATION, NOT WITH ITS OPPRESSORS". EXCELSIOR IS ALSO CRITICAL OF RABASA'S REPORTED COMMENT THAT HE EXPECTS AN OBJECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL FOR FORMER FONMIN ALMEYDA.

3. FORMER MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA MIGUEL COVIAN, COLUMNIST FOR RADICAL-NATIONALIST EL DIA, ALSO QUESTIONS RABASA'S "SUCCESS" AND PROTESTS THAT IT IS INADMISSIBLE TO

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TREAT AS INTIMATE FRIENDS THE ASSASSINS OF ALLENDE. IN ITS

EDITORIAL OF THE SAME DATE, HOWEVER, EL DIA CITES RABASA'S
FEAT AS A "BRILLIANT AND GENEROUS ACT OF MEXICAN FOREIGN
POLICY."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JUNTA, MINISTERIAL VISITS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL TRIALS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO04573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-1152
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740677/aaaacong.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO RABASA VISIT TO CHILE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MX, CI, (RABASA), (ALMEYDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005